

## Save the Date to Celebrate

*H*ow can we lift up Nebraska authors and Nebraska stories? Plan to attend the

**Celebration of Nebraska Books** and find out.

Save the date for the Celebration: **October 29**

at the Nebraska History Museum in downtown Lincoln. This event, free and open to the public, will feature the 2016 One Book One Nebraska book selection, honor winners of the 2016 Jane Geske, Mildred Bennett, and Nebraska Book Awards, and announce the reading selection for the 2017 One Book One Nebraska.


The 2016 Nebraska Book Awards honor authors and publishers of books with a Nebraska connection

published in 2015. Featured winning authors will read from their work and sign copies of their books. The **Mildred Bennett Award** recognizes an **individual** who has made a significant contribution to the fostering of the literary tradition in Nebraska, reminding us of the literary and intellectual traditions that enrich our lives and mold our world. The **Jane Geske Award** is presented to a Nebraska **organization** for exceptional contribution to literacy, books, reading, libraries, or literature in Nebraska. It commemorates Geske's passion for books, and was established in recognition of her contributions to the well-being of the libraries of Nebraska. Nominations forms are available at [http://](http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/nominationforms.html)

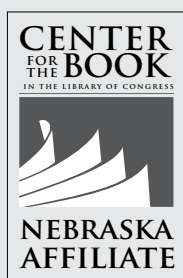
[centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/nominationforms.html](http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/nominationforms.html).

This year the Celebration marks the twelfth year of One Book One Nebraska—selecting and promoting a book for Nebraska citizens to read to celebrate the literary richness of our state.

*The Meaning of Names* (Red Hen Press, 2014) by Karen Gettert Shoemaker is the 2016 One Book One Nebraska selection. The Celebration will feature a presentation by Shoemaker about this Nebraska-set novel with a World War I backdrop. Nebraska libraries and other literary and cultural organizations across the state are hosting activities and events to encourage all Nebraskans to read and discuss the same book (see <http://onebook.nebraska.gov/2016/index.aspx>).

The **Nebraska Center for the Book Annual Meeting** will be held at 1:30 p.m.—just prior to the Celebration of Nebraska Books. An Awards Reception honoring the winning authors, book signings, and announcement of the 2017 One Book One Nebraska book choice will conclude the festivities. The 2016 Celebration of Nebraska Books is sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book (NCB) and Nebraska Library Commission—with Humanities Nebraska supporting the One Book One Nebraska presentation. For more information see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/celebration.html> and <https://www.facebook.com/NebraskaCenterfortheBook>. 

*Celebration of  
Nebraska Books  
Saturday,  
October 29, 2016*



## One Book One Nebraska on Digital Cartridge!

The 2016 One Book One Nebraska selection, *The Meaning of Names* by Karen Gettert Shoemaker, is now available to check out through the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Book and Braille Service. Talking books are available on cartridge to individuals with a visual or physical condition or a reading disability which limits use of regular print—and can be accessed through the mail, digital download, and in Braille. For more information see <http://nlc.nebraska.gov/TBBS>.



# New President Begins Term at Idea Exchange

*Guest Editorial by  
Sherry Houston,  
NCB President*

Nebraska Center for the Book (NCB) is changing faces. For three years, Mary Ellen Ducey was the president of Nebraska Center for the Book. Mary Ellen was the calm face for NCB and has strengthened the board in her years as president. The members of the board and I want to express our thanks to Mary Ellen for creating a positive climate for Nebraska Center for the Book and look forward to working with her in the coming years.

Having been on NCB Board for many years, after taking a short break I am now the new president. To start my term off on the right note, I attended the Idea Exchange in Washington, DC in April. What a great way to start a presidency. The meeting was held at the Library of Congress Madison Building. The leader of the meeting was John Cole, who founded Center for the Book forty years ago, as well as the National Book Festival with Laura Bush sixteen years ago. Dr. Cole felt that every state should have a Center for the Book, and he worked with Rod Wagner, Mary Jo Ryan, and other founding board members to create Nebraska's Center for the Book. In June, John Cole will no longer head the Center for the Book. He is going to be the first Historian and an Ambassador for the Library of Congress—a well-deserved promotion, but Dr. Cole will be missed. Pam Jackson will take his place at Center for the Book.

Dr. Cole wanted to create something focused on reading and literacy within the Library of Congress and he envisioned the Center for the Book. Dr. Cole kept his vision for reading and literacy at the forefront when recommending, creating, or implementing any change in the Center for the Book. He felt reading and literacy are at the heart of a strong democracy and any new programs were created to encourage reading and literacy.

Did I do anything at the Idea Exchange besides gaze in adulation at John Cole? Here are a few things, I took away:

- The National Book Festival will be held at the Washington Convention Center on September 24, 2016, with more than 120 authors. The author list is quite impressive and just to drop a few names: Stephen King, Ken Burns, and Shonda Rhimes. If you have time for a Washington weekend, get your tickets and go, see <http://www.loc.gov/bookfest>.
- U.S. Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera has selected poet Allison Hedge Coke for the 2016 Witter Bynner Fellowship. Hedge Coke formerly held the Paul W. Reynolds and Clarice Kingston Reynolds Chair in Creative Writing at the University of Nebraska at Kearney and serves as a mentor for the University of Nebraska Omaha's MFA in Writing program.

*(continued on page 11)*

The **NCB** News

Summer 2016 | Volume 26 | No. 2

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Reviews originally appeared in the Nebraska Library Commission Blog "Friday Reads" feature ([nlc.nebraska.gov/nlcblog](http://nlc.nebraska.gov/nlcblog))

## Nebraska Center for the Book Board and Committees

### Executive Committee

Sherry Houston, President; Mary Ellen Ducey, Past President; Lois Todd Meyer, Secretary; Donna Kennedy Marvin, Treasurer

### Funding/Membership

Donna Kennedy Marvin; Suzanne Wise

### Nebraska Book Festival

Mary Ellen Ducey; Sherry Houston; Chuck Johanningsmeier

### Programs/Projects

Becky Faber; Erika Hamilton; Nancy Johnson; Donna Kennedy Marvin; Lois Meyer; Cathy Mohnike

### New Members

Scott Abels; Kate Borchman Hassebrook; Becky Crofoot; Sherry Houston; Julia Kennedy; Pat Leach

### Publications/Publicity

Mary Ellen Ducey; Molly Fisher; Chuck Johanningsmeier; Christine Walsh; Mary Jo Ryan (Nebraska Library Commission staff representative)

### Awards Art Coordinator

Mary Jo Ryan

### Letters About Literature Coordinator

Lauren Riedesel

Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner is an ex-officio member of all committees.

### Nebraska Center for the Book Board Meeting

June 18 . . . . . 9:30 a.m.

Seward Memorial Library

### Advertising

The NCB News can accept up to four 1/8-page ads for each issue. The advertising rate is \$125 for 1/8-page. NCB News is issued March 15, June 15 and October 15. The advertising and copy deadline is six weeks prior to issue date. For details, contact Mary Jo Ryan, Nebraska Center for the Book, The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120, Lincoln, NE 68508-2023; 402-471-3434, 800-307-2665, e-mail: [maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov](mailto:maryjo.ryan@nebraska.gov), [centerforthebook.nebraska.gov](http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov)

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# Young Nebraska Writers Honored

Young Nebraska writers received Letters about Literature award certificates from Gov. Pete Ricketts at a proclamation-signing ceremony celebrating National Library Week, April 10-16, 2016. Letters about Literature is a national reading and writing promotion program. Nearly 50,000 adolescent and young readers nationwide in grades four through twelve participated in this year's program, hundreds of them from Nebraska. The competition encourages young people to read, be inspired, and write back to the author (living or dead) who had an impact on their lives. The Nebraska winners were honored at a luncheon and received cash prizes and gift certificates. Their winning letters were placed in the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at Bennett Martin Public Library in Lincoln.

The students wrote personal letters to authors explaining how his or her work changed their view of themselves or the world. They selected authors from any genre, fiction or nonfiction, contemporary or classic. Winners were chosen from three competition levels: upper elementary, middle, and secondary school.

## WINNERS

**Conleigh Hemmer**, Lincoln, for a letter to Patricia McKissack, *A Friendship for Today*

**Madeline Walker**, Lincoln, for a letter to Ray Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451*

**Colette Mahr**, Chadron, for a letter to Laurie Halse Anderson, *Wintergirls*



## ALTERNATE WINNERS

**Carson Bredemeier**, Falls City, for a letter to Laura Hillenbrand, *Unbroken*

**Janna Marley**, Lincoln, for a letter to Kate DiCamillo, *The Magician's Elephant*

**Julia Briones**, Lexington, for a letter to Khaled Hosseini, *A Thousand Splendid Suns*

This annual contest is sponsored nationally by the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress, with funding from Dollar General Literacy Foundation. The Center for the Book was established in 1977 as a public-private partnership to use the resources of the Library of Congress to stimulate public interest in books and reading. The Nebraska competition is coordinated and sponsored by the Nebraska Center for the Book, Nebraska Library Commission, and Houchen Bindery Ltd. For more information see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/programs/LAL.html>.

*Letters about Literature 2016 ceremony: (l-r) Carson Bredemeier, Falls City; Julia Briones, Lexington; Colette Mahr, Chadron; Janna Marley, Lincoln; Gov. Pete Ricketts; Madeline Walker, Lincoln; Conleigh Hemmer, Lincoln; Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner.*

## What is the Nebraska Center for the Book?

*The Nebraska Center for the Book brings together the state's readers, writers, booksellers, librarians, publishers, printers, educators, and scholars to build the community of the book. We are the people who know and love books, and who value the richness they bring to our lives. Our Nebraska Center supports programs to celebrate and stimulate public interest in books, reading, and the written word. We have been an affiliate of the Center for the Book in the Library of Congress since 1990.*

## Join the Nebraska Center for the Book

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

Name/address of a friend who might be interested in NCB membership: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ \$15 Individual Membership ☐ \$25 Organizational Membership ☐ Additional Contribution

*Contributions above \$15 are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.*

**Please send this form and a check to: Nebraska Center for the Book  
The Atrium, 1200 N Street, Suite 120 • Lincoln, NE 68508-2023**






# NE150 and 2017 One Book One Nebraska



Planning for the Nebraska Sesquicentennial is well underway and the Nebraska 150 Books initiative has issued a reading challenge encouraging Nebraskans to read the stories of our first 150 years. This prompted the Nebraska Center for the Book board to join this reading challenge by deciding to select a 2017 One Book One Nebraska book that epitomizes the best literature produced in Nebraska's first 150 years. To this end, **nominations will not be solicited** for 2017 One Book One Nebraska, and any that have already been received will be held for consideration for 2018 One Book One Nebraska. The 2017 One Book One Nebraska selection will be announced at the October 29 Celebration of Nebraska Books.

Initiated by the Nebraska Literary Heritage Association (NLHA), a committee of librarians, teachers, and NLHA members—with input from experts in the field—spent six months discussing many worthy works to compile a list of 150 readily available titles either written by a Nebraska

author or focused on Nebraska. Grants from Firespring and Humanities Nebraska, along with financial support from the Nebraska Library Commission and the Foundation for Lincoln City Libraries, contributed to the web site (<http://nebraska150books.org>) and promotional materials. Posters and bookmarks were distributed to all public libraries, historical societies/museums, and bookstores across the state.

The Nebraska 150 Book List is an ongoing statewide community reading initiative endorsed by the Nebraska Sesquicentennial Commission. The purpose of the list is to represent the spectrum of Nebraska books; to increase the understanding of the different cultural aspects of the state, past and present; to inform Nebraskans of the literature of the state; and to encourage readership of books from the list in preparation for the NE150 celebration activities. For more information on the NE150 Reading Challenge see <http://nebraska150books.org/get-involved/the-nebraska-150-reading-challenge.html>. 

## Review:

Reviewed by  
Susan Knisely,  
Nebraska Library  
Commission

## *Eleanor & Park*


by Rainbow Rowell  
St. Martin's Griffin, 2013  
ISBN: 1250012570

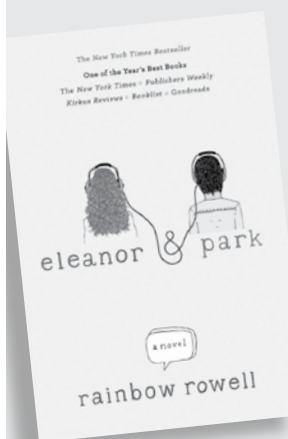
I know *Eleanor & Park* has been out for three years and many have already read and loved it, but I just got around to listening to it. I'm glad I did. It was evocative, filled with both angst and sweetness. The tragedy is that in the end Eleanor's family situation is too dire to overcome by any other means than escape. I don't want to provide a plot summary—those are plentiful elsewhere—but I will share a personal thought/impression:

While high school definitely wasn't a high point in my life (I considered myself somewhat disaffected at the time), I was completely sheltered from the type of dysfunction in which Eleanor's life was steeped. However, I'm sure I had classmates who, unbeknownst to me, lived lives very similar to Eleanor's. This is why I absolutely abhor the fact that parents try to ban books like *Eleanor & Park* from school libraries. If a book accurately portrays the

lived experiences of some students, it strikes me as condescending and dismissive to claim that it is "inappropriate" for other students to even read about it, especially if the subject matter is handled compassionately, in a way that may cultivate empathy. And what about the potential value to students living lives similar to Eleanor's in seeing their own experiences in print?

Having finished *Eleanor & Park*, I've now moved on to *Fangirl* (St. Martin's Griffin, 2013), another book by Rainbow Rowell. This one is set in Lincoln, on the University of Nebraska campus. The main character lives in Pound Hall, is an English major who hangs out in Andrews Hall, and haunts the north basement of Love Library. Ditto, ditto, ditto.

**Ed Note:** *Eleanor & Park* was selected as the Young Adult Fiction Nebraska Book Award winner for 2014. The book was also selected to represent Nebraska as the book selection for the "Great Reads about Great Places" list for the 2016 National Book Festival's "Discover Great Places through Reading" map. 



## BiblioFile: Featuring New NCB Board Members

The Nebraska Center for the Book (NCB) recently welcomed several new board members and we want to introduce them. We asked each new member three questions:

**Q.** Tell us about yourself.

**Q.** What are your hobbies?

**Q.** What author would you like to write to?

They responded.

**Scott Abels.** After many years living and teaching in Mexico and Hawai'i, Scott Abels now lives on the family homestead near Stanton with his wife, young son, and a growing flock of heritage ducks and geese. He is the author of several books of poetry, and he is also a new member of the English faculty at Northeast Community College. His list of influential authors includes Jack Spicer, Alice Notley, Ted Berrigan, and John Berryman.



Scott Abels

**Kate Borchman Hassebrook.** Kate is a lifelong volunteer and has been active in many boards, the Nebraska Justice Center, church council and endowment, Cub Scouts, Lyons-Decatur school board, Lyons Public Library board, Nebraska State Advisory Council on Libraries, and Advisory Committee of the Nebraska Library Commission's Talking Books and Braille Service. She is currently a TeamMate in Fremont. Kate is a Marketing and Auditing Assistant at First State Bank and Trust in Fremont. She loves reading and is a member of two book clubs, but also likes knitting, gardening, and baking. She would write Elizabeth Cady Stanton, one of the original suffragettes.



Kate Borchman Hassebrook

**Becky Crofoot.** Becky retired after forty-two years as a caseworker at the Nebraska Children's Home Society. Over the years she has volunteered for the Papillion Public Library, sang in a church choir, and did solo work. She currently manages several family farms. Becky loves to read, but high on her list are family, sports, music, and travel. She is fascinated by WWII and would like to talk to Albert Speer.

**Sherry Houston.** Sherry has always worked in libraries from the time she was fourteen—the first was the St. Paul Public Library. In college, she worked at the Nebraska Wesleyan and UNL libraries. Later she worked at the library at the Rapid City, SD School of Mines and Technology. For twenty-five years, she was a school librarian in Sutton. And she ended her career as System Director for the Republican Valley Library System. Sherry's hobbies include weaving, knitting, reading, going out for lunch, and seeing movies. She would write Paul Kalanithi, author of *When Breath Becomes Air* (Random House, 2016) and would love to lunch with Anne Lamott.

by Molly Fisher,  
Lincoln



Becky Crofoot



Sherry Houston

**Julia Kennedy.** Growing up in Cedar Rapids on the family farm, Julia attended UNL studying Women's history and Native American studies. Julia is currently employed by the federal government in Immigration Services. Julia enjoys her two sons, her dog, and loves to read. She also travels and hikes. She would write to Marilynne Robinson, Iowa author of *Gilead: A Novel* (Picador, 2006).



Julie Kennedy

**Pat Leach.** As Director of Lincoln City Libraries, Pat says her unofficial title is "Lincoln's Most Passionate Reader." She also hosts "All about Books" on NET Radio and she gives numerous presentations to various groups about the future of Lincoln City Libraries and ALA's Notable Books. She enjoys reading, gardening, birdwatching, and road trips. Pat would write Martin Seligman, because his book, *Learned Optimism: How to Change Your Mind and Your Life* (Vintage, 2006) impacted her perspective. In addition she would talk to Alice Munro, and Anne Lamott, for Munro's books turned her on to short stories and Lamott's book *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith* (Anchor, 2000) kept her laughing. 📖



Pat Leach



## American Life in Poetry: Column 575



by Ted Kooser,  
U.S. Poet Laureate,  
2004-2006

Susan Aizenberg lives and teaches in Omaha, and the following poem is from *Quiet City*, published by BkMk Press. My father and perhaps yours, too, found a little pleasure in an early morning walk.

### Mornings


Before the train screamed him through tunnels to his windowless office, the idiots he had to “sir,” my father needed a space without us, so in a crack of light from the bathroom, he dressed, held his shoes by two fingers, and left us sleeping. That walk

to the diner, the last stars fading out, the sky lightening from black to blue to white, was his time. He walked in all weather, let each season touch him all over, lifted his face to rain and sun. He liked to watch the old houses stir awake and nod to the woman in her slippers on 27th, smoking as she strolled her little mutt.

To step back, smooth as Fred Astaire, from the paperboy’s wild toss.

Milk bottles sweated on doorsteps, sweet cream on top, and once, he lifted a quart from its wire basket, drank it down beneath our neighbor’s winking porch light, and left the empty on the stoop.

### We do not accept unsolicited submissions.


American Life in Poetry is made possible by The Poetry Foundation ([www.poetryfoundation.org](http://www.poetryfoundation.org)), publisher of *Poetry* magazine. It is also supported by the Department of English at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Poem copyright ©2015 by Susan Aizenberg, “Mornings,” from *Quiet City*, (BkMk Press, 2015). Poem reprinted by permission of Susan Aizenberg and the publisher. Introduction copyright © 2015 by The Poetry Foundation. The introduction’s author, Ted Kooser, served as United States Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry to the Library of Congress from 2004-2006. 

## Nominations Accepted Until August 15 for Literary/Literacy Awards

The Nebraska Center for the Book is accepting nominations to honor Nebraska’s champions of literature and literacy. Awards will be presented at the Celebration of Nebraska Books on October 29. The **Jane Geske Award** is presented annually to a Nebraska **organization** for exceptional contribution to literacy, books, reading, libraries, or literature in Nebraska. It commemorates Geske’s passion for books, and was established in recognition of her contributions to the well-being of the libraries of Nebraska. Jane Pope Geske was a founding member of the Nebraska Center for the Book, former director of the Nebraska Library Commission, and a long-time leader in Nebraska library and literary activities.

The **Mildred Bennett Award** recognizes an **individual** who has made a significant

contribution to the fostering of the literary tradition in Nebraska. Its purpose is to remind us all of the literary and intellectual traditions that enrich our lives and mold our world. The award recognizes inspired leadership and service on behalf of Nebraska literature, highlighting how the recipient follows the example of Mildred Bennett, the charismatic founder and long-time president of the Willa Cather Pioneer Memorial and Educational Foundation.

For more information see <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/awards.html>. Nomination forms are available at <http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/nominationforms.html> or contact Rod Wagner, Nebraska Library Commission Director, [rod.wagner@nebraska.gov](mailto:rod.wagner@nebraska.gov), 402-471-4001, 800-307-2665. 





# What Are You Reading?

Nebraska Center for the Book board members share their thoughts about the books they are reading.

I am currently reading *Appetite for America: Fred Harvey and the Business of Civilizing the Wild West—One Meal at a Time* (Bantam, 2011) by Stephen Fried. As the Santa Fe railroad progressed west and south, Fred Harvey established restaurants, shops, hotels and train stations along the way and eventually built an empire. This piece of history is written in a very compelling manner that makes one want to continue to the end.

**Becky Crofoot**

I've just re-read *Olive Kitteridge* (Random House, 2008) by Elizabeth Strout. I enjoyed it even more the second time than the first. It's such an interesting development of character and narration—certainly not the typical form of a novel. The vignettes involve Olive in varying degrees—in some she is a major character, but in others she is briefly referenced. The themes of love, aging, infidelity, human connections, and loss abound. Strout's writing is beautifully crafted.

**Becky Faber**

Our new board member, Becky Crofoot with Nancy Kacirek Feldman wrote *Family Medical History: Unknown/Adopted: How a Routine Inquiry Led to Unexpected Answers for an Adopted Woman* (Beckman Books, 2014), which tells the story of Nancy's search for her birth mother's family. The book gives Nancy's perspective along

with Becky's, who was a long time caseworker for the Nebraska Children's Home Society. This was an interesting read, and one comes away with a better understanding of the adoption process and what persistence it takes to find out what happened.

**Molly Fisher**

I am reading *Journey to Munich* (Harper, 2016) by Jacqueline Winspear. It is the thirteenth book in the series and I have read them all. It is 1938 in England, and the second World War is starting to percolate. Heroine Maisie Dobbs and the British Secret Service have plans which involve the Nazis and Munich. Always full of intrigue and psychological profiles, Winspear's books are a delight.

**Sherry Houston**


After finishing *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* (Simon & Schuster, 2006), the wonderful book by Doris Kearns Goodwin, I just couldn't get Abraham Lincoln out of my head. So, I was thrilled when I came across *Lincoln's Boys: John Hay, John Nicolay, and the War for Lincoln's Image* (Penguin, 2014) by Joshua Zeitz. What a find. It follows the two young Illinois secretaries that lived and worked with President Lincoln in the White House. As busy as they were, they both managed to write letters and keep journals which provide firsthand accounts of the very historical time that they were living.

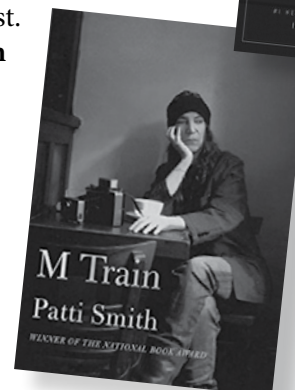
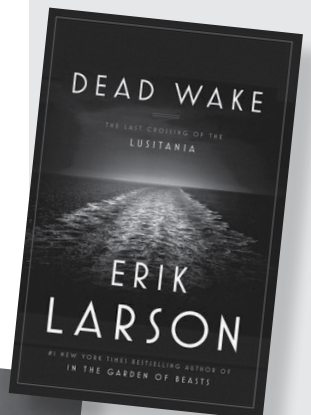
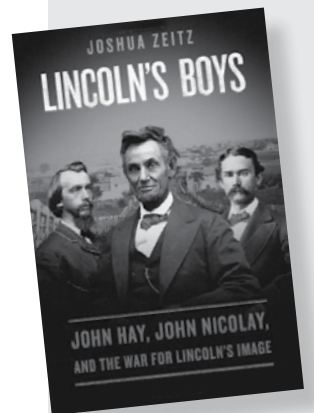
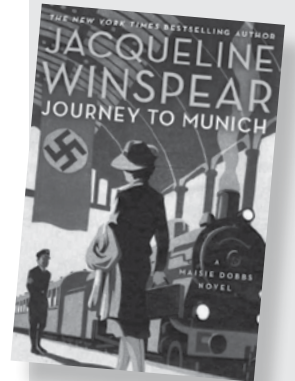
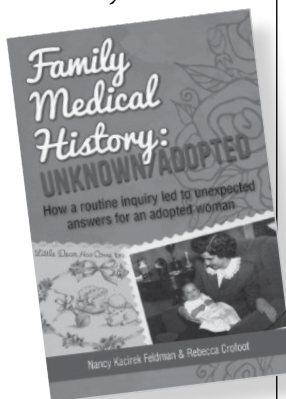
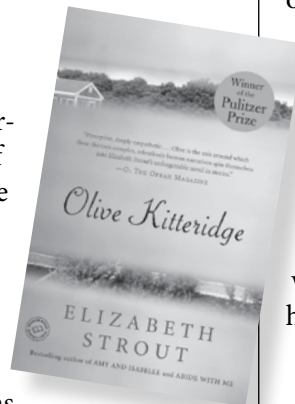
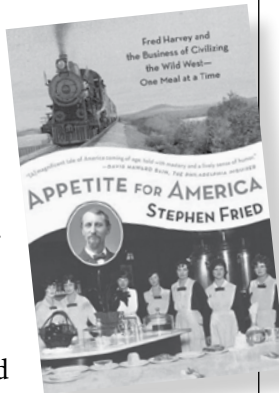
**Julia Kennedy**

Right now I'm reading *Dead Wake: The Last Crossing of the Lusitania* (Broadway Books, 2016) by Erik Larsen, a nonfiction book about the Lusitania. Excellent storytelling with lots of information about the World War I era beautifully woven in. It's from the 2016 American Library Association Notable Books List.

**Pat Leach**

I'm reading Patti Smith's *M Train* (Knopf, 2015). Most commonly known as a punk-rock poet, Smith's memoir reveals a multi-dimensional writer and artist.

**Rod Wagner** 



## Review:

Reviewed by  
Rod Wagner,  
Nebraska Library  
Commission

# *The Naked Mountaineer: Misadventures of an Alpine Traveler*

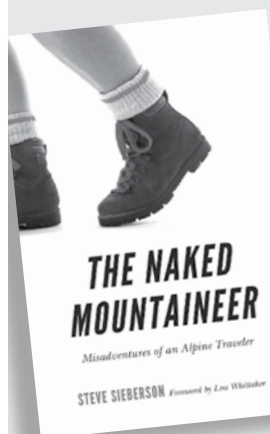
by Steve Sieberson  
University of Nebraska Press, 2014  
ISBN: 0803248792

Steve Sieberson is a world traveler—and a mountaineer. His law career has taken him to numerous foreign places. His expertise in international business has included lecturing and advising. In 2006 he joined the Creighton University Law School faculty. Sieberson's writing includes a recent textbook on international business contracting. But for those of us not closely connected to international business, his book on mountaineering is a much more interesting read.

I met Steve Sieberson and his wife Carmel at an Omaha Public Library book event. It was there that I picked up a copy of this book. Outside of his years as a practicing attorney and international businessman, Sieberson developed a passion for mountaineering. A family trip one

summer from his rural home in northwest Iowa to Colorado began his lifetime fascination with high elevations. From there he read books on mountaineering from his local library. His boyhood fascination has endured through his adult years.

Sieberson's move to Seattle and his many years there provided the proximity to enjoy his passion for the mountains of the Pacific Northwest. During his years in Seattle he was a member of Seattle Mountain Rescue and the Mountaineers organization. *The Naked Mountaineer* is a delightful commentary on Sieberson's global travels and opportunities to climb many of the world's highest and most challenging mountains—the Matterhorn, Mount Agung, Mount Fuji and many more. Especially enjoyable are his commentaries about his experiences as a climber—the places, the people, and the customs. His passion and his good humor are found throughout his book. 📖



## More New Teen Books

by Paul  
Christopherson,  
Omaha Public  
Library

At the Millard Branch of Omaha Public Library, nine teen volunteer training sessions were offered in May—recruiting 100-150

teen volunteers for the summer.

They will be stationed about ten feet from the front door and will use laptop computers to sign up children, teens, and adults for the summer reading program. Since they are efficient at technology, they are perfectly suited for this role. They make a wonderful contribution to our library and community! New books

teens are reading include:

*Passenger* by Alexandra Bracken (Disney-Hyperion, 2016). Etta is about to present a violin concert and shortly

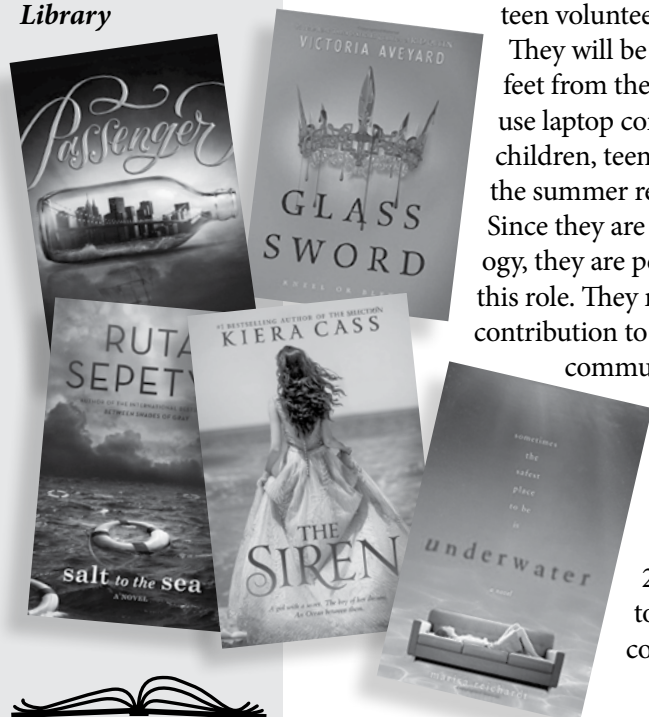
after that she is shocked to be transported to 1776 on a ship in the Atlantic Ocean.

*Glass Sword* by Victoria Aveyard (HarperTeen, 2016). Mare is a Red and a Silver and has been betrayed by Maven, the prince turned king, and she needs to find (very quickly) New Bloods who are Reds and Silvers in order to start a revolt against him.

*Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys (Philomel Books, 2016). The “Wilhelm Gustloff” was the largest ship to ever go down at sea in all human history. Relive this story through the lives of four teenagers.

*The Siren* by Kiera Cass (HarperTeen, 2016). Kahlen is going to drown unless she makes a bargain to serve the Ocean for one hundred years. Eighty years later she meets a guy and she wants to be released from her original commitment.

*Underwater* by Marisa Reichardt (Farrar, Straus and Giroux, 2016). Morgan has not stepped outside of her apartment for several months because she feels guilty for an act of kindness that turned to tragedy. 📖





## Wright Morris: Berkeley Unisex Toilets

Nudged by Marie Kondo's *The Life-Changing Magic of Tidying Up: The Japanese Art of Decluttering and Organizing* (Ten Speed Press, 2014), I am donating my Wright Morris files to UNL Archives & Special Collections. Morris, born in 1910 in Central City, had Yiddish-speaking neighbors in Omaha. He spent his junior year, 1933, in Vienna. A prominent writer and photographer, Nebraska influenced his art—particularly *The Home Place* (Bison Books, 1968), the 2010 One Book One Nebraska selection. Morris settled in Marin in California's Bay Area, with his second wife Josephine Kantor. He started donating his papers to the University of California in 1954. Wright died in 1998 and Josephine in 2002. The University of Nebraska purchased their papers—about fifty-one linear feet—and their library.

My interest in Morris arose from a mea culpa and penance. In a 1998 appreciation of Morris, I incorrectly wrote that someone was an Iowan, when they were a Nebraskan. Norman Geske called me out. I acquired forty-six Morris books from online booksellers, read the oeuvre over the summer. I visited the Bancroft Library in Berkeley to examine his manuscripts and concluded that Jews were vital to Morris's stories, which I related in "Wright Morris and the Jews." I adopted Geske's signature drink, the Negroni (sweet, sour, and bitter) after imbibing it at his

90th birthday celebration in 2005 at the Sheldon.

While vetting my one linear foot Morris file,

I came across "Choices," prepared in long-gone WordStar. It had been in a folder for eighteen years. I retyped it in Word (shown at right).

In 1998 unisex was in play. The transgender toilet accommodation controversy is more recent. The Republic of Berkeley seems always in the *avant garde*. Abraham Lincoln Elementary School became Malcolm X Elementary School in the 1970s, well before the recent renaming craze. 📖

by Oliver B. Pollak,  
Omaha

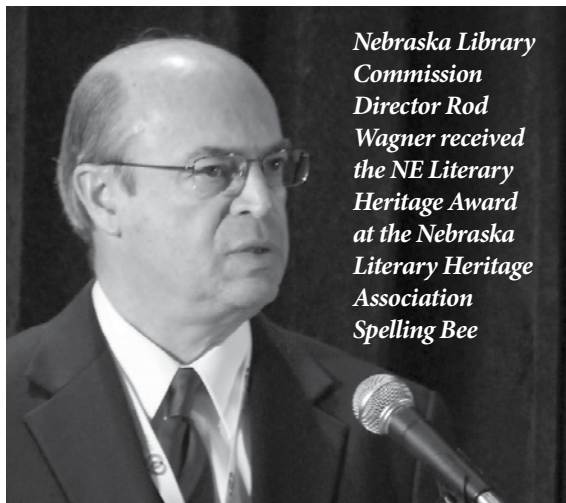
### Choices

Bancroft Library, Berkeley  
September 8, 1998, been at it since 10:30  
Skip lunch  
Bladder break between books and manuscript deliveries  
Leaving reading room to find restroom  
Referred back to reading room with its own restroom  
Security thing (some archives use a gram scale for manuscript checkout and return)

See the door – men and women on both restroom door signs  
How do I work this out?  
How do I choose?  
Student copy center worker  
Take the one to the left it's got better ventilation  
Smells a little less  
Do my thing, exit

Take a couple of pictures of doors (with Canon Elph film)  
Student worker comments  
Cannot figure out why they don't just put "restroom" on door  
Maybe for fools like me  
Fools don't use the Bancroft

## Adult Spelling Bee Raises Funds for Heritage Room



Nebraska Library  
Commission  
Director Rod  
Wagner received  
the NE Literary  
Heritage Award  
at the Nebraska  
Literary Heritage  
Association  
Spelling Bee

The Nebraska Literary Heritage Association (NLHA) held their thirty-first annual Adult Spelling Bee this spring at The Single Barrel in Lincoln. The event again featured popular Emcee John Baylor.

Nebraska Library Commission Director Rod Wagner received the NE Literary Heritage Award at the event.

All proceeds support the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors—a unique resource of more than 13,000 books by nearly 4,000 writers with a Nebraska connection, located at Lincoln's Bennett Martin Public Library. 📖



# Treasures of the Heritage Room

by Erin Willis,  
Lincoln City  
Libraries


Susette La Flesche Tibbles was an accomplished writer, speaker, advocate and activist for Native American rights, known primarily for her role as interpreter during Standing Bear's trial in May 1879. She is lesser known for her artistic accomplishments, though she played a significant role in the progress of Native American art. Commonly referred to as "Bright Eyes," Susette La Flesche Tibbles joined with Fannie Reed Giffin in writing and producing, *Oo-mah-ha Ta-wa-tha*, or *Omaha City*, published in 1898. Fannie Reed Giffin is the primary author and Bright Eyes illustrated the book with small sketches and two inset paintings (see illustration below). It is said to be the first book illustrated by an American Indian.

The book opens with the 1854 "Treaty with the Indians," which U.S. President Franklin Pierce signed with the Omaha Indians, passing the tribal lands around Omaha over to the U.S. Government. Subsequent chapters contain images and biographical

sketches of chiefs who signed the treaty. Also included are examples of Indian folklore and songs, such as the "Rabbit and the Turtle" story and "Dream Woman," told by Iron Eye's wife, Waoowinchtcha.

*Oo-mah-ha Ta-wa-tha* concludes by describing Omaha City and Nebraska in 1898. The authors make direct reference to the remarkable literacy and literary potential in Nebraska, acknowledging the origins of Nebraska's literary culture. Fannie Reed Giffin notes, "Several successful novels have been written, and scenes laid in this city. Some writers of humor, whose reputations are now as wide as the nation...first attracted attention through work done on Nebraska publications."

Susette La Flesche Tibbles will be remembered as the first woman to advocate and speak widely for the Indian cause, but *Oo-mah-ha Ta-wa-tha* is a rare remaining example of her work on paper. This book, inscribed by Fannie Reed Giffin, can be found in the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors—along with other authentic sources of information about Indian culture in Nebraska.

**Ed. Note:** The NCB News will run an article in upcoming editions featuring an item from the Jane Pope Geske Heritage Room of Nebraska Authors at Lincoln City Libraries, <http://lincolnl libraries.org/heritage-room-of-nebraska-authors>. 

## Norfolk Public Library Literature Festival is July 30


Supported by the Norfolk Library Foundation and the City of Norfolk, the 22nd Annual Norfolk Public Library Literature Festival will be held at the Lifelong Learning Center on the campus of Northeast Community College on July 30. The Festival will feature presentations by authors of books for children and young adults (YA):

**Lou Anders**, 2017 Golden Sower Award nominee for *Frostborn* (Yearling, 2015)

**Jill Esbaum**, 2017 Golden Sower Award nominee for *I Am Cow, Hear Me Moo!* (Dial, 2014)

**Alan Gratz**, 2015 Golden Sower Award YA Winner for *Prisoner B-3087* (Scholastic, 2013)

**Sally M. Walker**, 2017 Golden Sower Award nominee for *Winnie: The True Story of the Bear Who Inspired Winnie-The-Pooh* (Henry Holt and Co., 2015)

Writer's Workshops and 2016-2017 Golden Sower Previews will also be offered. For more information, contact Karen Drevo at Norfolk Public Library, 402-844-2108 or [kdrevo@ci.norfolk.ne.us](mailto:kdrevo@ci.norfolk.ne.us). 

# Courthouse Libraries: Don't Throw the Book at Me, I'll Check it Out

Nebraska has many law libraries in county courthouses, the State Capitol, two law schools, and federal courthouses. They support judges, clerks, prosecutors, practitioners, pro se litigants, scholars, and students. Legal research relies on precedent. *Shepard's Citations* started in 1873. Learning to "Shepardize" is a "rite of passage" as law students search for links to similar cases, reversals, affirmed, and distinguished without a difference. *Shepard's* went online in 1999. The search process became almost instantaneous.

The Roman L. Hruska Federal Courthouse in Omaha opened in 2000, with a library on the fourth floor, one of eight libraries in seven states under the auspices of the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals. The library reduced its footprint from about 10,000 square feet, to 5,350 (including a conference room). *LexisNexis* and *Westlaw* online changed research protocols and space allocation. Shelves lined with statutes, codes and thousands of volumes of state and federal case law reporters are now accessible online. Hard copy volumes—as much as I do not want to use the word—were rendered "obsolete." Why leave your desktop, laptop, notebook or iPad, and why save all those deadwood volumes? Warm body library patronage appears in decline.

The librarian arranged an eye catching "intimate" collection of thirty-nine recent books about Nebraska law. I was familiar with fifteen of the titles, knew seven authors, taught two, reviewed four, and wrote two. The oldest book was *Angles of Vision: A Memoir of My Lives*

(Ivan R Dee, 1991) by Philip M. Klutznick, a 1930 Creighton Law graduate, urban housing pioneer, President Jimmy Carter's Secretary of Commerce, and supporter of Creighton's Klutznick Law Library. He wrote the introduction to my 1989 history of B'nai B'rith in Omaha. Thirteen volumes were about native Americans and five were memoirs, autobiographies or biographies of Supreme Court Justices Burger, Blackmun, Stevens, Thomas, and Nebraska Federal District Court Judge Warren Urbom.

The time between bankruptcy hearings can be as much as two hours; the library invites repose. I read newspapers, browse law reviews, eat a snack, scribble, and do some light snoozing. No one, other than the librarian and lightbulb maintenance person, came into the library. The July 6, 2015 *New York Times* featured "An Innovative Library Lifts the fortunes of a Chinese Town," a delightful diversion, reading about a library in a library. On our recent 21-day tour of China we did not visit this library about three hours from Beijing, nor did we get to the Shanghai Library, at twenty-four stories the tallest library in the world and the second largest in China.

*Postscript:* On Thursday June 2, 2016 I fact-checked. The Court Librarian in St. Louis stated that the Omaha library closed at the end of March to reduce or close libraries to comply with budget demands and utilize the expanding digital infrastructure. The Fargo, ND library suffered a similar fate. The books were redistributed to the remaining Eighth Circuit libraries or were recycled. 📖

by Oliver B. Pollak,  
Omaha



*Final book display of books about Nebraska law in the Roman L. Hruska Federal Courthouse library in Omaha.*

## New President Begins Term at Idea Exchange (continued from page 2)

- Día de los Niños/Día de los Libros is now called Día and turned twenty on April 30. Founder of Día and author Pat Mora and Association for Library Services to Children (ALSC) President Andrew Medlar spent the day reading with children and members of Congress.
- Little Free Libraries will be at the National Book Festival.
- Invite representatives of national, state, and local governments to your events.

- Do anything to encourage reading and literacy, e.g., *Books and Beer* in Texas, *Route 1 Reads*, Digital Mapping project with America's writers, etc.

The ultimate highlight of the Idea Exchange was a tour through the Library of Congress Jefferson building led by Dr. John Cole. What an adventure! Thanks for sending me, Nebraska Center for the Book. 📖





# The NCB News



THE NEBRASKA  
CENTER FOR  
THE BOOK

an affiliate of  
the Library of Congress

c/o Nebraska Library Commission  
The Atrium  
1200 N Street, Suite 120  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-2023  
34-00-12

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Lincoln, NE

## Nominate Literacy/Literature Champions by Aug. 15

[centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/nominationforms.html](http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/nominationforms.html)

An Invitation to Enter...  
The 2016 Book Awards Competition



CURRENT RESIDENT OR:

## Calendar of Events:



View the complete  
Nebraska Literary  
Calendar at  
[centerforthebook.  
nebraska.gov/  
get\\_involved/calendar.  
html](http://centerforthebook.nebraska.gov/get_involved/calendar.html)

**Willa Cather and Quilts, with Evelyn Haller Harris** ..... July 27 ..... Kearney  
Contact: Museum of Nebraska Art, 308-865-8975,  
<https://mona.unk.edu/mona/education-events/public-programs/>

**Louise Pound, Nebraska Athlete and Scholar: Biography or Living History** ..... July 28 ..... Gering  
Contact: Gering Public Library, 308-436-7433, [spreston@geringlibrary.org](mailto:spreston@geringlibrary.org),  
<http://www.gering.org/departments-services/library>

**Norfolk Public Library Literature Festival** ..... July 30 ..... Norfolk  
Contact: 402-844-2108, [kdrevo@ci.norfolk.ne.us](mailto:kdrevo@ci.norfolk.ne.us),  
<http://www.ci.norfolk.ne.us/library/PDFdocs/LiteratureFestivalFlyer2016.pdf>

**51st Annual Neihardt Day Celebration** ..... August 7 ..... Bancroft  
Contact: 402-648-3388, 888-777-4667, [neihardt@gpcom.net](mailto:neihardt@gpcom.net),  
<https://www.facebook.com/events/1050437538331160/>

**Library Card Sign-up Month** ..... September ..... Nationwide  
Contact: <http://www.ala.org/conferencesevents/celebrationweeks/card>

**Write on the River, with Karen Gettert Shoemaker and Amy Hassinger** ..... September 8-12 ..... Brownville  
Contact: 402-489-0859, [larksongwritersplace@gmail.com](mailto:larksongwritersplace@gmail.com),  
<http://www.larksongwritersplace.com/Larksong/Welcome.html>

**Dust Covered Dreams, with Barbara Eymann Mohrman** ..... September 14 ..... Cozad  
Contact: Wilson Public Library, 308-784-2019, [wpublib@cozadtel.net](mailto:wpublib@cozadtel.net),  
<http://humanitiesnebraska.org/speaker-events/dust-covered-dreams-9/>

**Plum Creek Children's Literacy Festival Adult Conference** ..... September 24 ..... Seward  
Contact: 402-643-7483, [Dylan.Teut@cune.edu](mailto:Dylan.Teut@cune.edu),  
<http://www.cune.edu/about/conferences-and-camps/plumcreek/>

**Banned Books Week** ..... September 25-October 1 ..... Nationwide  
Contact: <http://www.ala.org/bbooks/>

**21st Annual Governor's Lecture in the Humanities:**  
**Sonia Nazario "Enrique's Journey & America's Immigration Dilemma"** ..... September 27 ..... Lincoln  
Contact: 402-474-2131, [info@humanitiesnebraska.org](mailto:info@humanitiesnebraska.org),  
<http://humanitiesnebraska.org/program/governors-lecture/>